

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 00371 072144Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5629

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, FR

SUBJECT: SCIENCE ATTACHE POSITION

REF: STATE 001045

1. THE BUREQU' S OVERALL STAFFING COMPLEMENT PROBLEMS ARE FULLY APPRECIATED HERE. HOWEVER, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW ONE SCIENCE ATTACHE POSITION AND REDUCE THE STAFFING OF THE EMBASSY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL AFFAIRS OFFICE FROM A FOUR TO A THREE OFFICER SECTION WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE EMBASSY' S ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM AT THE LEVEL IT HAS IN THE IMMEDIATE PAST. IRRESPECTIVE OF THE SIZE OF OTHER EUR MISSIONS' PROGRAMS IN THIS REGARD, THIS EMBASSY HAS, OVER THE YEARS, BUILT UP ITS STAFF BY PROGRAMMING ITS OWN RESOURCES TO COPE WITH THE DEMANDS AND PRIORITIES THIS IMPORTANT WORK HAS REQUIRED HERE.

2. OBVIOUSLY THE OUTPUT OF THIS SCIENCE OFFICE WILL NOW HAVE TO BE CURTAILED. IT IS TOO EARLY TO DESCRIBE THE EXTENT OF THIS CURTAILMENT. DR. PIRET, THE FORMER SCIENCE COUNSELOR, HAS JUST LEFT THE POST AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS, AND THE PRESENT COUNSELOR, MR. SALMON, HAS DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS TIME SINCE HIS ARRIVAL LAST SEPTEMBER, AMONG OTHER ACTIVITIES, TO FAMILIARIZING HIMSELF WITH THE PROGRAM AND WITH THE CONTACTS AMONG THE EXTENSIVE FRENCH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY. IT HAD BEEN THE EMBASSY' S PLAN AT THE TIME OF THE EARLIER EXCHANGE (STATE 038942, PARIS 6556) ON THE SUBJECT OF A REDUCTION TO GIVE THE NEW SCIENCE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 00371 072144Z

COUNSELOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE OPERATIONS AND ITS

PRIORITIES AND MAKE A JUDGMENT ON STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AFTER
DR. PIET DEPARTED AND PRIOR TO ANY ACTION BY THE BUREAU. THE
EMBASSY STILL PLANS TO MAKE THIS STUDY AND WILL REPORT ITS FINDINGS
TO BOTH EUR AND SCI. IT SEEMS TO US THIS REVIEW WILL BE ALL THE
MORE PERTINENT BECAUSE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RECENT REORGANIZATION
OF ITS SCIENCE PROGRAM. MEANWHILE, THE EMBASSY WILL UNDERTAKE
TO TAILOR ITS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRAM TO THE REDUCED
STAFFING AS ESTABLISHED BY EUR WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF SCI.
RUSH

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